son of the distinguished author of that monumental work. Frederick Wells Williams was born and spent his boyhood days in China, aided in the final revision of *The Middle Kingdom,* and during more than thirty years on the teaching staff of Yale gave courses on China and helped to stimulate that scholarly interest in the land of his birth which is now, fortunately, so markedly on the increase in the United States. To him the author owes his introduction to and much of his love for Chinese lore.

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In addition to the bibliographies included at the end of the various chapters, the author has made extensive use of H. Cordier, *Bibliotheca Sinica* (second edition, Paris, 1904-1908, Supplement, Paris, 1924), the most nearly complete bibliography of writings on China in Western languages, and of

Samuel Couling, *The Encyclopaedia Sinica* (London, 1917), which, while avowedly incomplete and at times inaccurate, is an extraordinarily useful book of reference.[1]

No history can be freed from the writer's preconceptions. The very selection of facts involves a judgment as to the relative importance of the myriad actions and events which constitute the

[1] Since the first edition was published, another excellent bibliography has appeared—R. J. Kerner, *Northeastern Asia,: a Selected Bibliography (2* vols., Berkeley, 1939). It devotes approximately half its space to China and includes works in Chinese as well as those in Western languages.

Current exhaustive bibliographies are in *The Far Eastern Quarterly* (New York, 1941ff.).